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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MONGBE (Benin)

later: Mr. RYSINSKI (Poland)
(Vice-Chairman)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft decision on strengthening development information systems for regional cooperation and regional integration in Africa (A/C.2/48/L.50)

Draft decision on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (A/C.2/48/L.51)

Draft decision on the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (A/C.2/48/L.52)

Draft decision on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (A/C.2/48/L.53)

1. Mr. AHMIA (Algeria) introduced draft decisions A/C.2/48/L.50 to L.53 on behalf of the Group of African States and noted that they were procedural decisions by which the General Assembly would endorse resolutions adopted by consensus by the Economic and Social Council at its 1993 substantive session. The sponsors urged the prompt adoption of the draft decisions so that the Secretary-General and the various bodies of the United Nations system could implement the four Council resolutions as soon as possible.

AGENDA ITEM 41: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN (continued)

Draft resolution on emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan (A/C.2/48/L.48)

2. Mr. KARSLIOGLU (Turkey), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Malaysia, Nepal and Oman, said that the draft resolution reflected a number of developments in Afghanistan since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 47/119. Drawing particular attention to paragraphs 3 and 4, he said it was the responsibility of the international community to come to the aid of Afghanistan, a nation that had fought valiantly for the cause of liberty and freedom at enormous sacrifice. He appealed for the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 91: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

(e) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/C.2/48/L.58)

3. Mr. R. JARAMILLO (Colombia) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors and drew particular attention to the fourth preambular paragraph and to paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5. The sponsors hoped that all delegations would support the text.

AGENDA ITEM 99: IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems (A/C.2/48/L.47)

4. Mr. ISAKOV (Russian Federation) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Poland and Turkey. It was essential, within the framework of existing resources and using existing tools, to enhance the effectiveness of international efforts to monitor the global environment. In that connection, he drew attention to the first and fourth to seventh preambular paragraphs and to the three operative paragraphs of the text.

AGENDA ITEM 91: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/181 (A/48/689)

5. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) introduced the note by the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/181 (A/48/689) and said that the debate on an agenda for development would be one of the most important to be held in the United Nations on the subject of development. The replies received thus far from Member States on the matter, considered in chapter II of the document, contained useful input. Chapter III outlined various approaches to the concept in an effort to spark discussion on the subject; as was indicated in paragraphs 21 and 40, the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General should be viewed as an open working agenda.

6. The document had been issued later than expected because it had been necessary to incorporate the latest replies from Governments in the text as it was being finalized.

7. Mr. R. JARAMILLO (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed concern at the late distribution of the documentation pertaining to the item, which would permit only general and preliminary comments rather than a substantive debate.

8. The mandate for the elaboration of an agenda for development derived from the need for a review of development opportunities, problems and perceptions and an updated approach to international economic cooperation. Its starting-point should be a firm commitment to the full implementation of existing agreements and strategies. It should be based on the concept that, while economic growth was a prerequisite of development, development was much more than economic growth. A central objective of the new agenda should be overcoming the poverty which affected vast sectors of the population of developing countries and would inevitably result in social disintegration and the erosion of democratic systems.

(Mr. R. Jaramillo, Colombia)

9. The globalization of the world economy had opened up opportunities for economic cooperation, and the implications of that phenomenon for developing countries should be explored. The transition of formerly socialist economies should also be examined in order to identify potential areas of cooperation with the developing countries.

10. The commitment of the countries of the third world to the promotion of their own growth and well-being had often been recognized, but the international community as a whole bore even greater responsibility in the context of an increasingly integrated world economy. The agenda for development should therefore provide an updated vision of the role of the market and the function of the State so that the developing countries' integration into the world economy might translate into a better standard of living. The resumption of the dialogue between developing and developed countries should play a catalytic role in that regard.

11. The United Nations was being eclipsed in the area of economic cooperation by other organizations and institutions which often lacked a truly pluralistic nature. Yet the United Nations was the only global organization having a clear mandate in all areas of development and a capacity to articulate economic, environmental, social and political issues within an integrated vision. Consequently, it belonged at the forefront of efforts to restore the participatory nature of international organizations and their decision-making machinery, which in turn called for a restoration of the Organization's financial resources. In addition, the Bretton Woods institutions and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) should coordinate their guidelines and policies closely with the United Nations.

12. Mr. NOTERDAEME (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that an agenda for development was a necessary stage in the process of adapting the concept of development, and especially its implementation, to current realities. Recent major multilateral conferences had produced an impressive number of innovations, almost all of which focused on the human being and on defining the roles of the State and the private sector. Other important concepts to be considered in the agenda included interdependence and sustainability; the links between development and population; and democracy, development and human rights, including the right to development. The agenda for development should integrate those new areas of consensus, particularly the concept of human-centred development, in order to maintain a balance among the economic, social and ecological dimensions of the development process.

13. In a global economy, countries could no longer ignore the impact of their actions on other members of the international community. A growing number of developing countries played an active role in the world economy, while others remained marginalized; their full integration into the international economic system should therefore be given the highest priority. Efforts must be made at the national, regional and global levels, and the areas in which the United Nations system could play a specific role should be identified. The agenda

(Mr. Noterdaeme, Belgium)

should be a practical document, a set of guidelines for implementing existing agreements such as Agenda 21, taking into account the comparative advantage of the various multilateral agencies and institutions.

14. The Secretary-General's note (A/48/689) had stressed that the discussion of an agenda for development remained an open one. Many of the new ideas that should be reflected therein involved qualitative aspects of development, such as sustainability. Any discussion of resource flows should also consider the production capacity of specific groups of countries. The special problems of the least developed countries, especially those in Africa, deserved priority attention. Other important elements for inclusion in the document were the eradication of absolute poverty, ways to increase economic growth in order to promote social progress, more equitable income distribution, the participation of women and greater cooperation between the United Nations and the international trade organizations. The United Nations had the advantage of being able to approach development problems in an integrated way, but it could put its advantage to use in a more practical manner.

15. Mr. MAŃCZYK (Poland) said that the international community must rethink development concepts and adapt existing mechanisms to new requirements. The new approach should not focus solely on developing countries, but also on the production and consumption patterns of the developed countries that contradicted the concept of sustainable development. It must also encompass the global dimensions of transition. An agenda for development, together with "An Agenda for Peace", Agenda 21 and the proposed agenda for human rights ought to constitute the four main pillars of future United Nations activities.

16. Renewal of the United Nations should emphasize the interdependence of national efforts to revitalize growth and development and the harmonization of international economic and social policies aimed at creating an external environment conducive to such development. To that end, cooperation must be focused on mutually agreed and realistic priorities. The spirit of the Rio Conference must be maintained and the notion of common responsibilities and partnership should be upheld at the forthcoming international conferences, notably the World Summit for Social Development and the International Conference on Population and Development.

17. In the new development scenario the United Nations must play an enhanced role in responding to the economic and social needs of the least developed countries. As a country undergoing a major socio-economic transformation, Poland believed that the United Nations should play a leading role in the transition process. His delegation had called for the elaboration of an overall strategy for democratic transformation, and the agenda for development could, by taking a long-term view, initiate such a process.

18. Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) said that the traditional concept of international relations linked only to political factors and the absence of armed conflict was giving way to a new integrated approach to peace in which social and economic elements assumed growing importance. The challenge in elaborating an agenda for development lay in defining those elements of human development that could consolidate peace, yet as long as peace was nothing more than an interval between episodes of violence, obtained at the price of maintaining military forces or threats of greater violence, the principal objective of the United Nations Charter would remain unfulfilled.

19. Economic growth would generate the resources required to establish conditions for greater social cohesion and political stability. As long as the industrialized countries maintained their protectionist practices, however, the development prospects of weaker economies would be severely limited. The international community must focus its efforts on reading a new political consensus that would revitalize international cooperation and reverse the current trend away from it.

20. Mr. LAMAMRA (Algeria) said that the declaration adopted at the Security Council Summit Meeting in January 1992 and "An Agenda for Peace" had recognized the underlying economic aspects of conflicts and crises and the close links between peace and development. It was generally acknowledged that the goals of "An Agenda for Peace" could not be attained unless it was accompanied by an agenda for development. Increasing support for an economic model based on a market economy, the declining emphasis on ideology in North-South relations and the growing awareness of the interdependence of nations in confronting environmental challenges provided a solid foundation for a renewal of international cooperation. The concept of development itself had changed; currently there was increasing emphasis on sustainable and person-centred development. Moreover, the universal right to development had been affirmed at the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993.

21. An agenda for development could make an important contribution in many areas. The definition of goals for the year 2000 in such areas as the eradication of hunger and poverty, the external debt problem and basic education for all would help to mobilize the international community. Correction of imbalances in the world economy between developed and developing countries should also be addressed. A definite timetable for the allocation by the developed countries of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance (ODA) should be established. The relationship between disarmament and development must be reaffirmed and ways to place the peace dividend at the service of development must be found. Since Africa was the world's most vulnerable region, specific objectives for that continent should be defined and appropriate resources committed. The United Nations role in "preventive development" or "preventive economic diplomacy" should be considerably strengthened.

(Mr. Lamamra, Algeria)

22. The operational activities of the United Nations system had been marginalized in recent years, in part because of the financial burden of peace-keeping operations. Development must resume its place as a central concern of the United Nations system, since the promotion of development and social progress was the best possible investment in peace. A strengthened role for the Economic and Social Council and greater decentralization of authority to the regional commissions would increase the Organization's effectiveness. Regional and subregional groupings for the economic integration of developing countries should be encouraged and supported.

23. Finally, an agenda for development should lay the foundations for a renewed North-South dialogue based on interdependence and mutual interest and characterized by an action-oriented approach.

24. Mr. SUCHARIPA (Austria) said that thought should be given in preparing an agenda for development to the division of labour between entities that had very little direct economic clout, such as the United Nations, and those that did, such as the international financial institutions, corporate business and the scientific and technical community. The High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/191 should address that issue.

25. Rather than formulating yet another development concept, it would be wiser to focus on implementing the concept of sustainable development by, inter alia, reassessing the development model of the industrialized countries and making sustainable development truly people-centred and exploring its relationship to human rights, social development and democracy. Certain aspects of sustainable development would be clarified by the preparatory processes for the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. The agenda for development must synthesize the contributions of all those processes into a coherent whole while exploring such new areas as energy questions, including long-term solutions to the damaging effects of current energy consumption patterns in the developed and developing countries.

26. An agenda for development might also have institutional implications. It should build on the reforms already introduced, particularly under General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 46/235, and should further strengthen the role of the Economic and Social Council. The agenda should also allow the United Nations system to make better use of one of its main assets - the information available to it. In that connection, his delegation reiterated its proposal to institute consolidated reports culminating in a comprehensive report on the state of sustainable development.

27. As far as timing was concerned, it would be logical to take a final decision on the agenda for development after the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World

(Mr. Sucharipa, Austria)

Summit for Social Development had been held. That decision would then coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, thus setting the stage for the Organization's efforts to tackle the major challenges of the twenty-first century.

28. Mr. ISAKOV (Russian Federation) said that development should be viewed as a universal process that involved all States, regardless of their level of development or group affiliation. Such a global approach to development should take account of the specific needs of diverse groups of countries, including the developed and the developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries in especially difficult circumstances. In other words, development and development objectives should be perceived as a sort of common denominator for the entire international community, with the numerator consisting of various groups and subgroups of countries. Of course, that "indicator" would be constantly adjusted as the world economic situation evolved.

29. His delegation was pleased that similar ideas had been reflected in the Secretary-General's note (A/48/689), in particular in paragraphs 32 to 36. However, those ideas should have been presented at the beginning of chapter III to indicate that all the subsequent elements of the agenda for development were being considered in that context.

30. The agenda for development must be pragmatic and focus on the achievement of realistic and important tasks. In completing the agenda, the Secretary-General should bear that consideration in mind and take account of existing and future observations by Member States. The principal criteria for choosing what elements to include in the agenda should be based on their relevance to world economic development and their universal applicability. Realism must also be a guiding principle in setting the goals of the agenda, which should strike a careful balance between the sovereignty of States, their common interests and mutual responsibility.

31. The United Nations must play a key role in generating and systematizing the ideas that would form the basis of an agenda for development and also in ensuring coherence between the individual elements of that concept and coordinating their implementation at the international, regional and national levels. In particular, his delegation supported the Secretary-General's idea of the continuum of the work of the United Nations in the context of the overall process of post-conflict peace-building, which called for simultaneous measures to address the problems of global peace and security and sustainable economic and social development.

32. While his delegation agreed that all interested States should be given a chance to participate in the preparation of the agenda for development, such open-ended participation should not become a pretext for delaying the completion of work on the concept.

33. Mr. KAMAT (India) expressed support for the Colombian statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. His delegation generally agreed with the contents of the Secretary-General's note. It believed, however, that an agenda for development must be more than a mere complement to "An Agenda for Peace". Concern about countries emerging from specific situations such as natural disasters or conflicts should not divert attention from the core requirements of sustained growth and development or from the obstacles faced by developing countries in an adverse international economic environment.

34. An agenda for development must also be viewed in the context of the many existing agreements and documents on development, such as the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. An agenda for development could be a useful tool in analysing why none of those instruments had led to substantial action-oriented programmes or results.

35. More specifically, the agenda should address questions pertaining to development finance, investments, technology flows and the role of the United Nations in development. In the area of development financing, an effort must be made to overcome aid fatigue and ODA stagnation and to elaborate a strategy for enhancing concessional flows. Encouragement must be given to the more widespread distribution of private investment and to generating technology flows while at the same time ensuring adequate rewards for innovators.

36. The question of disarmament and development must be considered in the context of development financing, investments and technology. Weapons industries must be converted for civilian production; excess equipment must be transferred on concessional terms to the developing countries for civilian use; and the additional resources generated by the savings realized must be used to meet the development needs of the developing countries and control unemployment in the developed countries. Lastly, the philosophy of development must be re-examined at a time when one formula for economic growth was becoming dominant, even though it could not be neatly transferred to developing countries seeking to promote growth in a different historical and economic context and faced with highly developed competitors.

37. Mr. Rysinski (Poland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

38. Mr. BHATTIA (International Monetary Fund (IMF)) said that an agenda for development should be seen as a complement to "An Agenda for Peace". In true agenda format, it should be concise, containing a few clearly articulated principles, and recommend concrete national and international action for development within the framework of a truly globalized world economy. The agenda for development should have as its objectives: the promotion of a holistic concept of sustainable development and support for development in both the developing and developed countries; the identification of key areas of

(Mr. Bhattia, IMF)

activity, in meeting development needs; and the definition of the course to be taken by international development cooperation, particularly the role of the United Nations system and the potential contribution of the World Summit for Social Development.

39. He pointed to a number of parallels between the elements of "An Agenda for Peace" and those of an agenda for development. Preventive diplomacy had its counterpart in sound macroeconomic policies, including anti-inflationary monetary policies, sustainable fiscal strategies and realistic exchange rates. Peacemaking had its counterpart in adjustment, including the creation of a market-friendly environment for growth and the implementation of country-specific growth-oriented development strategies. Peace-keeping had its parallel in sound and active social policies, including well-targeted social safety nets to alleviate poverty and protect vulnerable groups from the short-term negative aspects of adjustment, policies to promote equal opportunities, and population policies. Peace-building had its parallel in capacity-building, good governance and international assistance to sustainable development programmes.

40. Those phases of development flowed naturally from a few core principles that could form the basis of an agenda for development. The first principle was self-help, in which the importance of savings, promoted by sound macroeconomic policies, could not be overemphasized. The second principle was the efficient use of resources, which could be ensured by sound macroeconomic policy, human resource development and investment prioritization. Equally vital in that connection were liberal trade and exchange systems that fostered international trade and development, thereby helping developing countries to become part of the global economy. Free trade was also crucial to the developed countries' efforts to sustain developing country initiatives.

41. The third principle was partnership, in which ODA and debt relief were important, but whose main focus must be trade. The fourth principle was equity, under which the "Agenda for Peace" and the agenda for development must be mutually reinforcing in the quest to overcome poverty, inequalities and social exclusion, both nationally and internationally.

42. While the principles he had enumerated defined the roles of developed and developing countries in an agenda for development, the role of international institutions, particularly that of the United Nations system, must be explored further. The key questions were how an agenda for development could encourage cohesion and timeliness in the relevant activities of the United Nations system and how it could improve their coordination with the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and bilateral donors. In such arrangements the United Nations would be primarily involved in the peace process and in strengthening the "social pillar" of development described by the Managing Director of IMF in his address to the Economic and Social Council in June 1993. An agenda for development could provide guidance to the United Nations in that regard, and the World Summit for Social Development could provide the necessary institutional structure.

(Mr. Bhattia, IMF)

43. While the Secretary-General's note expressed the fear that giving the United Nations responsibility for the social pillar would "marginalize" it and reduce its role in economic development, the whole point of an agenda for development was to stress that development was not only economic. The agenda for development and, subsequently, the World Summit for Social Development, could promote the concept of institutional specialization and collaboration. That process would involve assigning responsibilities in the design and implementation of national development strategies and streamlining United Nations operational activities for development. Such institutional strengthening of the social pillar of development was a prerequisite for gaining credibility and, thus, for attracting the necessary financing. An expanded version of his statement was being circulated to delegations.

44. Mr. Mongbe (Benin) resumed the Chair.

45. Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, said that the Secretary-General's note, although concise, contained useful elements for further discussion. The deliberations at the current session demonstrated the importance that Member States attached to an agenda for development. The urgency of formulating that agenda was highlighted by the self-centred focus of the deliberations of the Second Committee thus far - in which the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and the question of interim offices overshadowed substantive matters. An agenda for development that charted a clear course for the United Nations would remedy that lack of direction.

46. The preliminary views of the delegations on whose behalf he spoke were reflected in the progress report, which formed a sound basis on which to build an agenda for development. In that context, his delegation fully agreed with the Secretary-General's assertions in paragraph 29. It was most encouraging that the report recognized the futility of compartmentalizing aspects of development without considering their interrelationship. His delegation was also pleased that the Secretary-General viewed economic growth as a mainspring of development.

47. As his delegation had indicated in the Committee's general debate, equating the economic gap between North and South with the cold-war polarization between East and West on economic matters had created almost insurmountable obstacles to development cooperation, which was in fact a concern of all nations. It was therefore encouraging to note that the replies received by the Secretary-General reflected the widespread view that an agenda for development should serve as an instrument to place development cooperation at the top of the world agenda. The Secretary-General should be encouraged to pursue his work with a view to achieving those objectives.

48. He fully agreed that the progress report should be the beginning of a process rather than its end and welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to issue the report requested in General Assembly resolution 47/181 in early 1994.

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

Assuming that that report would indeed be followed by dialogue on an agenda for development, he wished to propose the following format: presentation of the Secretary-General's report in early 1994; an exchange of views among Member States, the Secretariat and other relevant partners under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly; discussion of the report by the Economic and Social Council as proposed by the Secretary-General; and submission by the Secretary-General, of his final report, based on extensive consultations, to the General Assembly it its forty-ninth session, at which time a consensus might be reached on a framework for action.

49. Mr. ALDOSARI (Bahrain) said that, while an agenda for development required sufficient time to prepare, it could help to forge a clear vision and unifying strategic framework for the United Nations system in the development field. The discussion of economic development in the post-cold-war era remained deadlocked, economic stagnation persisted and the future of the developing countries remain uncertain as their social situation continued to deteriorate, particularly in the areas of population, health, housing and the environment. The international community must formulate a plan of action to assist those countries, and the developed States must show political will in that endeavour. That required a strengthening of the role of the United Nations in development coordination and cooperation.

50. Mr. PIERRE (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that, given the critical importance of the agenda for development, the Secretary-General's note (A/48/689) was less substantive and comprehensive than many delegations had expected.

51. Despite decades of debate and numerous declarations and agreements, the expected benefits of development remained elusive. Notwithstanding their efforts to introduce stringent structural adjustment programmes and economic reforms, the CARICOM countries remained dependent on a limited range of export products and a narrow economic base from which to pursue their development goals. They were further constrained by their small physical size and vulnerability to natural disasters. Their access to finance, technology and technical know-how remained highly restricted, and their infrastructural base was poorly developed in some important sectors. Sadly, that situation prevailed in the vast majority of the world's countries.

52. An agenda for development was in the interest of both the developing and the developed countries. The achievement of economic objectives depended both on the policies pursued by individual developed countries and on a common solution to acute global imbalances. It was a truism that an increase in the consumption levels and purchasing power of the peoples of the developing world would benefit the economies of the North. In addition, the increasing incidence of transborder migration and international drug-trafficking, which followed a distinctly South-North pattern, would abate as their underlying causes were removed. To be implemented in a timely, effective and coordinated manner, the agenda for development must consolidate all existing plans, programmes and strategies into a single blueprint for development.

(Mr. Pierre, Guyana)

53. Practical measures must be taken to address the terms and structure of world trade and other common concerns of developing countries, such as lack of market access and unfair competition. It was essential for the CARICOM countries to diversify their economies and move away from their traditional role as exporters of commodities in order to engage in more profitable economic activities. However, very little could be achieved without access to technology and finance. The question of trade, environment, finance, technology and industrial development were interlinked and were critical elements of an agenda for development.

54. It was completely unacceptable that ODA should continue to fall short of internationally committed levels. The United Nations should assume the leading role in coordinating actions for development financing, which would require greater emphasis on collaboration and coordination with the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral sources of financing. Innovative ways must be found to ensure the smooth financing of development, and the concept of the "peace dividend" should be examined in that light.

55. It was universally agreed that human development ought to be the primary focus of all development efforts. All global targets and programmes in such fields as health, education, children's welfare and the integration of women in development should be addressed under a common agenda that identified specific action for their achievement.

56. The economies of developing countries had undergone much restructuring and streamlining. The CARICOM countries had instituted reforms in their external trade and fiscal policies which allowed for freer trade and a more unfettered financial sector. Some countries had implemented stringent structural adjustment programmes at great cost. Those efforts revealed the Caribbean Community's determination to move their societies progressively forward in quest of balanced development. Commensurate action on the part of the international community was long overdue.

57. Mr. MUCHANGA (Zambia) said that an agenda for development should be wide-ranging, bold, imaginative, pragmatic and capable of improving living conditions on a sustained basis. The endorsement by the World Conference on Human Rights of the right to development, the equality of women and the universality of human rights had laid the groundwork for greater popular involvement in the development process. His delegation hoped that the agenda for development would reflect all the fundamental changes that had taken place in the political and ideological spheres in order to ensure the economic security of all peoples and countries.

58. While economic liberalization was an accepted necessity in developing countries, the developed countries' harmonization of their economic policies was still an elusive goal. Asymmetrical patterns of liberalization, which had cost the developing countries approximately $500 billion, must be reversed to yield additional resources for development finance in a world of declining ODA and

(Mr. Muchanga, Zambia)

increasing recipients. An agenda for development must replace or radically improve current structural adjustment programmes in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and revitalize sustained growth and development without which financial stability was ultimately unattainable. The development of a modern and efficient social and economic infrastructure in regions such as Africa was a necessary condition for creating a supportive environment for the development of the private sector. For that reason, many least developed countries would still rely heavily on ODA in their development programmes, and an agenda for development should highlight that fact. The agenda should also re-examine the developing countries' external debt problem and place it fully within a development context.

59. An agenda for development must address ways of making more effective use of multilateral institutions in promoting development world wide. The Economic and Social Council must play a greater role in that regard, and policy makers in the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions must provide answers to such key questions as governance, optimum financing, market access, the maintenance of order in the new international monetary system of global capital markets, the promotion of development, the lingering external debt crisis, commodity dependency and the challenge of diversification, regional economic integration and the eradication of poverty. Those issues must be addressed in an agenda for development, whose adoption should replace ad hoc arrangements with powerful, cost-effective long-term solutions to the problems of development.

60. Mr. KARIM (Bangladesh) said that the proliferation of conflicts in various parts of the world in the post-cold-war era had led the United Nations to devote increasing attention to political and security issues, to the detriment of development. Although poverty, underdevelopment and environmental degradation in the developing countries were potential sources of conflicts and emergencies, they were not receiving the attention they deserved. His delegation hoped that, with the growing recognition of the interrelationship between international security and development, equal attention would be provided to those crucial issues.

61. An agenda for development should put forward innovative and concrete ideas for the full and timely implementation of agreed conclusions and existing consensus documents, which it should seek to improve. It should be based on the lessons learned and experiences gained in the field of development during the 1980s and 1990s.

62. The developing countries had been implementing radical economic reforms and structural adjustment policies, had opened their markets and were making efforts to make the best use of their scarce resources and to ensure their peoples' participation in the development process. However, because of the unfavourable international environment, those efforts had not yielded the desired results. Donor commitments had not been fulfilled, and international development assistance had declined sharply. Market access for products from developing

(Mr. Karim, Bangladesh)

countries had been limited, and no significant progress had been achieved in the transfer of technology. An agenda for development must provide action-oriented recommendations in those vital areas, taking into account existing and future consensus documents and the outcomes of international conferences and summits.

63. The continuing degradation of the economies of the least developed countries should receive special attention in the agenda for development. It was time to transform the era of global interdependence into an era of mutual cooperation and partnership in which the special responsibility of the developed countries would be clearly spelt out. The North-South dialogue should be reinvigorated with the clear objective of bridging the development gap between the two worlds.

64. His delegation was in favour of an agenda for development that increased the responsibility of the United Nations system in the field of economic and social development. The complementarity of roles of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions and the Organization's advantages of universality and neutrality should be taken into account. The current trend of restricting the Organization's role in the economic field in the name of reform and restructuring ran counter to the expectations of most Member States. If the United Nations was to play a balanced and impartial role in achieving peace, development and justice, it must broaden its involvement in the economic field.

65. Mr. CAMARA (Observer for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the preparation of an agenda for development would require an assessment of existing objectives and commitments in the sphere of development and international economic cooperation, consideration of issues relating to resource flows and development financing and ways and means of implementing agreed commitments. Within that framework, the United Nations system must play an enhanced role, and FAO was ready to continue to discharge its responsibilities in close cooperation with other parts of the system and Member States.

66. An agenda for development should focus on development that helped to reduce poverty. Unfortunately, many countries and whole population groups had not only failed to make progress towards that objective but had fallen further behind, particularly in the 1980s. Chronic malnutrition continued to afflict hundreds of millions of people, and the latest FAO assessment of food, agriculture and rural development prospects to the year 2010 indicated that, while progress would continue, there would be significant exceptions. Food security problems and rural poverty were likely to persist in the medium term, and in some countries, including all of sub-Saharan Africa, problems were likely to worsen. In the low-income countries that depended on agriculture, only a significant acceleration of sustainable agricultural and rural development could improve the situation. One of the major focuses of an agenda for poverty eradication must therefore be the development of agriculture and the rural sector.

(Mr. Camara, Observer, FAO)

67. In cooperation with the United Nations system and national Governments, FAO was ready to contribute its experience and expertise so that progress might be achieved. The role of the United Nations system in development must be considered within the wider context of action by all concerned, particularly the Governments of both developed and developing countries. An agenda for development should clearly reflect the fact that the United Nations system was at the service of Governments, that development was primarily the responsibility of Member States and that effective coordination among all participants in the development process was essential.

ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING SPONSORSHIP OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

68. Mr. COSTA (Brazil) announced that Italy, Guyana and Suriname had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.36 submitted under agenda item 101.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.